

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Inclusion of Works of Art on Certain County Public Buildings

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Purpose

To define and establish a policy for the inclusion of original works of art on qualifying County-owned public buildings.

Background

Public buildings often contain some works of art such as murals, sculptures or reflecting pools to enhance the aesthetic quality of the building. It is the desire of the Board of Supervisors to establish a County policy of providing artwork on public buildings, including as to how the artist will be selected and reimbursed.

The County Administration Center is an example of a County public building where artwork in the form of reflecting pools, sculpture and murals was incorporated in the original design successfully.

It is noted that the Federal Government, through the adoption of a similar policy, includes works of art on public buildings. Without such a policy, artwork is only sporadically and not always effectively provided for in the new buildings. It is the belief of the Board of Supervisors that the most economical and effective method of including any artwork on public buildings is to include it in the original design whenever possible; that by so doing, supporting services and structures or utilities, if needed, can be included in the original construction.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

An artwork allowance based on the estimated construction cost of a building project may, under the procedure described herein, be expended for works of art integral to a project for a new building. This allowance shall not exceed:

\$1,000 for each \$100,000 of estimated construction costs for construction costs up to \$500,000.

\$500 for each additional \$100,000 of construction costs above \$500,000.

New public buildings qualifying under this policy shall have an estimated construction cost of \$100,000 more and be widely used by the general public, such as libraries, courts, administration centers, hospital and clinics.

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The original artwork qualifying under this policy may include but not limited to sculpture, murals, reflecting pools, handmade light fixtures, decorative windows or skylights, decorative screens, entry doors or wood or metal or other art items that may lend themselves effectively to the particular project.

Procedure

A three member committee shall be established. It shall consist of the architect responsible for project design, one member appointed by the Chairperson of the Public Arts Advisory Council, and one member appointed by the Director of General Services. The committee shall:

1. Determine the type and location of artwork best suited to the overall design of the public building.
2. Invite artists to be interviewed who would be interested in submitting proposals to construct and/or supervise the construction of the type of artwork that has been determined to be appropriate.
3. Select from one to three of the above artists to develop fully elaborated proposals including sketches or models of the proposed work.
4. Judge the final submittals and make recommendations to the Director of General Services regarding the proposed artist and design.

The Director of General Services shall make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors as to the preferred artist and design. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision regarding the artist, design, and allowance.

The Committee may recommend to the Director of General Services that a maximum of \$200 honorarium be paid to each artist submitting final proposals. Such payment shall be approved by the Director of General Services. The total cost of any such honorarium payments and the cost of the approved artwork shall not exceed the maximum allowance for any project as specified in this policy.

The final construction documents for the project shall include a description of the approved artwork, the name of the artist and the allowance approved by the Board of Supervisors. Any preparation for the work, such as supporting structures or utilities, shall be incorporated into the cost of the general construction contract.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-09.

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Board Action

1-9-73 (37)

1-31-78 (16)

12-5-95 (36)

01/28/03 (16)

CAO Reference

1. Department of General Services

2. Auditor and Controller